

subtlety, the impossibility of Spanish rule over a people of patriots and heretics. Philip would not recognise heresy outside Holland and Zealand, and there only on sufferance.

Parma meanwhile stormed Maastricht (June 1579), in spite of the heroic resolution that kept him for several months at bay, and emulated the exploits of his predecessors in butchery and bestiality. The treachery of Rennenberg, the stadholder of Groningen, put in his hand another important city without striking a single blow, and the attempt of Hohenlohe to compel its surrender was frustrated by the relief force, which routed him on Hardenberg Heath (June 1580). And, at last, in the same month Philip hurled the ban which should crush the arch heretic and rebel, and expedite Parma's work of coercion. The ban denounced the prince as a rebel and fomentor of rebellion, a heretic, and an encourager of sacrilegious heretics, a hypocrite, a traitor, and a foreigner, outlawed and banished him, interdicted all communication with him, forbade all to supply him with the means of life, empowered all to seize him and his goods as " an enemy of the human race, and a pest of Christendom," and offered a reward of 25,000 gold crowns and a patent of nobility to any one who should assassinate him.

Instead of being unnerved, as Granvelle prognosticated, by this blast of royal wrath, William treated the ban as mere bluster, and in his " Apology" gave back as good as he got. The " Apology " is, in truth, one of the most sweeping denunciations of tyranny ever penned. William for once threw off his habitual self-restraint, and fired a salvo of scorn and criticism which completely demolished his enemy. Such outbursts were by no means rare in this age of unscrupulous and inhuman tyranny. In every land where tyranny was writing its history in the blood of patriots and martyrs the maledictions of miserable humanity were hurled against the oppressor. Anonymous pamphlets bore from the secret printing presses the bitter protests of outraged human nature. The " Apology" is no mere anonymous pamphlet, though it was perhaps actually written by William's chaplain, De Villiers. It embodies the ideas and sentiments of the greatest statesman of his time, and it was read and discussed in every court of Europe. Philip w<sup>as</sup> certainly ill advised to invite